

By **Steven Johnson**

February 25, 1999

Introduce myself...

So here we are in 1999, still arguing about if we should protect the planet or not. I would of thought that by this time, this wouldn't be an issue any more, I was wrong.

If my memory serves me well, it wasn't to long ago when Canada was and still is to my knowledge the best place to live in the world. Now, don't think that I go against this, but it doesn't seem like a good idea, that we would be here sitting talking about this in the first place. And if we go back again in the resent pat of our country, Canada was being criticized about our pollution problems, and that in consequence to this the government said that it would try to correct the problem,. never mind try they said that they would bring down the levels of pollution. Now I live in Dalhousie and when I look outside and see 3 major industries vomiting there wast up on me, I'm a little scared. There isn't much place on Dalhousie were I can go for a walk in the woods and be sure that my children will be able to walk there also one day.

This brings me to the subject at matter, Protected areas. I was asked to speak on this subject, and I accepted right away, because I wanted to help. I wanted to help make a difference in the world today, like all youth do. I wanted a chance to show other people that I care, I wanted to show companies that it wasn't there decision on whetter money or the environment was the best to go for and the other, to be put aside. most of all I wanted to save little piece of land, so that it would grow and be flourish in it's own ecosystem.

I say that in it all it's a more of a moral issue that anything else. Sure other people can say that it's an economy issue, will it bring money or will it lose some, to many times if the answer to this question is the second one, no matter how much good it would bring in the "smaller" sectors regarding this subject or any other for that matter. It's gonna go to the dump.

Protected areas as you've already probably heard, would only take a very

small percentage of land in NB.

That means that the forest industry would almost wouldn't not be affected by almost an insignificant loss of money or potential cutting grounds. That means that mills across NB would not or very little be affected.

For all those who live around here, and that have ever visited the restigouche river not to long ago would probably agree with me that it's disgusting, there's to much garbage.I think that implanting this areas, the people would probably be more interested in taking care of it. It wouldn't just be the river, it would be the river were the government put some kind of park or something like that, taking care of it, is only common sense. anybody would hate to not be able to go because it got so bad that nobody was aloud there.

And not only would this be good for the river, but also for the the rest of the suggested areas, al across NB.

I would think it to be a great injustice to the people of Dalhousie Nb and all tourists, if these proposed protected areas. I will tell you why. We all love provincial and federal parks, there would be something missing in all of our lives. Nb is lacking in protected areas, and I've never heard of any problems coming from them, maybe it's because there so very few. There just isn't enough, it's that clear.

In conclusion all I want to say is the environment is all of our business, and we all have a duty as humans to want to protect and make sure that nothing happens to our home, because it's the only one we've got. all in all I think it's a great idea and i hope that It does go through and becomes reality, because it would bring good to us all in one way or another. Thank you

Steven Johnson